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$$R_{1}^{R_{2}}$$
, R_{4}
 R_{1}^{-C-N} , $(CH_{2})n-X$ (I)

(57) Abstract

Novel compounds of formula (I) are described wherein: R₁=(CH₂)_mCH₃ where m is 0 or an integer in the range from 1 to 16, or an alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, or alkyl sulfinyl group having from 2 to 17 carbon atoms; R2=H, CH3 or CH2CH3; R3=H or CH3; R₄=H or CH₃; R₅= lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms; n is an integer in the range from 1 to 3, and X is carboxyl (COOH) or carbalkoxy (COOR₅), cyano (C≡N), phosphonic acid (PO₃H₂), phosphonate ester (PO₃[R₅]₂) or 5-tetrazole, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. Preferably, the compounds are optically pure enantiomers of the R- or S-configuration in which R₃=R₄=R₅=H, R₂=CH₃ and R₁ is a saturated aliphatic chain of one to five carbon atoms. The compounds are useful as cellular rescue agents.

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